

McMiddle Bands



FEATURING

**ALL 8TH GRADE MCGAVOCK CLUSTER
MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICIANS**



THURSDAY, MAY 9TH

DUPONT TYLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

AUDITORIUM AT 6:30PM

FREE ADMISSION



Thank you...

McMiddle Bands 8th Grade Combined Concert serves as a joyous tribute to the musical accomplishments and camaraderie shared among 8th-grade students representing all four middle schools within the McGavock MNPS Cluster. It is with great pride that we acknowledge the unwavering dedication of our students, highlighting the remarkable talent and commitment exhibited by these budding musicians.

Tonight's event embodies the essence of the MNPS theme, "Every Child Known." We firmly believe in the importance of recognizing each student's diligence and passion throughout their middle school odyssey. By uniting students from varied backgrounds and educational institutions, our aim is to cultivate a profound sense of inclusivity and unity within our community.

*This endeavor would not be conceivable without the steadfast support of our broader community. **To the parents and families,** we extend our sincerest gratitude to those who have wholeheartedly encouraged their children to pursue music education. **To our administration,** we express our gratitude for affording us the opportunity to assemble these talented students today. **To the CMA Foundation and Music Makes Us,** we are immensely grateful for your enduring dedication to fostering music education in our schools. Your collective commitment has served as a wellspring of inspiration for countless students and has significantly enriched our community.*

***To our students,** we offer heartfelt commendation. Your boundless passion, unwavering dedication, and exceptional talent are the driving forces behind this event, and we feel privileged to celebrate your accomplishments.*

As we pause to reflect on the journey that has led us to this moment, we are filled with profound gratitude and anticipation for the future. From the moment you first selected your instrument, we have been with you every step of the way, guiding you through your initial musical endeavors. Now, as you venture forth into the world, we are confident that your presence will make it a brighter place, both through your artistry and your character.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who have supported us on this journey and invite everyone to join us in honoring the extraordinary talent and spirit of our 8th-grade musicians. Together, let us continue to cultivate a community where each child is recognized and celebrated for their unique contributions and gifts.

Laura Shepherd
Donelson MS

Kacee Sanders
DuPont Hadley MS

Scott Miller
DuPont Tyler MS

Amy Saleeb
Two Rivers MS

PROGRAM

READY TO FLY

Cait Nishimura

“Ready to Fly” represents a parallel between young birds and young developing musicians. Just as fledglings learn to use their voices to make the beautiful bird sounds we all know and love, young musicians develop a familiarity with the language of music and learn to communicate and inspire through sound.

The melodies in this piece were inspired by real bird calls: the charming and easily-recognizable two-note call of the black-capped chickadee, and the musical fanfare-like three-note call of the red-winged blackbird. I was also inspired by songbirds in the construction of the piece, using layering and call-and-response sections to imitate antiphonal bird calls.

In working on this project, I felt strongly about creating a piece that contributes to both the musical and social-emotional growth of students at this level. My hope is that this piece will empower students of all levels to feel “ready to fly” in their musical and personal pursuits.

This piece was commissioned by Tammy Wahlin for the Robbinsdale Area Schools, with support from the Seven Dreams Education Foundation. This project was made possible thanks to the generous support of Marlene Johnson, who has asked to dedicate this piece in memory of her brother, Arnold Johnson, who was a lover of birds. Marlene and Arnold are both graduates of Robbinsdale high schools.

One dollar from every purchase of this piece will be donated to Birds Canada.

- Program Notes provided by C. Nishimura

GENTLE WINDS

Timothy Loest

“Gentle Winds” by Timothy Loest is a serene and evocative musical journey, capturing the essence of a calm spring morning. With delicate melodies and lush harmonies, the piece transports listeners to a tranquil landscape where gentle breezes sway through the air. Loest skillfully weaves a motif throughout the ensemble, creating unity and continuity. The music, ranging from delicate shimmer to rich resonance, invites reflection on the beauty of nature. As the piece draws to a close, it leaves behind a sense of tranquility and serenity.

- Program Notes provided by K. Sanders

PROGRAM

OOMPA LOOMPA

arr. Chris Bernotas

"Oompa Loompa," arranged by Chris M. Bernotas, brings to life the whimsical charm of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, made famous by the beloved film. With its lively rhythms and catchy melodies, this arrangement captures the playful spirit of the Oompa Loompas, the mischievous workers of the factory.

Much like the curious and adventurous middle school students, the music of "Oompa Loompa" exudes energy and creativity. As the piece unfolds, listeners are transported into the enchanting world of Willy Wonka, where imagination knows no bounds.

Through spirited interludes and vibrant orchestrations, "Oompa Loompa" invites audiences to join in the fun and embrace the joy of discovery. Embracing the whimsy and wonder of childhood, 'Oompa Loompa' resonates with the spirited nature and boundless imagination of middle school students, inviting them on a musical journey filled with joy and excitement.

- Program Notes provided by K. Sanders

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

John Herndon

"Flotsam & Jetsam" by John Herndon invites listeners on a rhythmic journey inspired by maritime themes. The piece showcases inventive percussion, from traditional instruments to found objects like brake drums and trash cans. Flexible in both instrumentation and ensemble size, it offers a dynamic platform for exploring rhythm and technique in an engaging and entertaining manner. Through its adaptability and thematic resonance, "Flotsam & Jetsam" emerges as a vibrant exploration of musical creativity intertwined with the imagery of the sea.

- Program Notes provided by K. Sanders

PROGRAM

INTO THE FUTURE

Scott Miller

When we first discussed this event, Laura Shepard asked if I would mind writing a piece for the event. I was grateful for the invitation and happy for the opportunity.

When I first started teaching in MNPS in 2001, J. Jeff Beckman, the Director of Bands at McGavock was always more than willing to help me in building my program. A program that I very much wanted to grow into one like that of McGavock High School's. Since then, I have always had a great admiration of the legacy that Mr. Beckman, his predecessors and members had created. So, in this piece, I wanted to try and create something for our kids, but at the same time, pay homage to the McGavock High School Band program.

Throughout the piece, I tried to think of the idea that something big is on the horizon. The piece begins with a fanfare figure that heralds the event, building to the first strain. With my great admiration of the McGavock band program's rich history, I felt that the first strain should be regal and stately, reflecting on the achievements and legacy of the McGavock Band. The second strain, is one of anticipation. The anticipation you feel when you know that something big is coming. We arrive at the final statement, echoing the beginning of the piece, a "Coming home". As students move to high school, there is always a great anticipation. There is often worry that it won't be the same, but in the end, high school band is just the next step. There are things that will be different, but at the same time, students realize that it is very much the same, and eventually they realize that when they are in band, they are "home".

Into the Future is a fanfare written for the Future McGavock Band members, who attend Donelson DuPont Hadley, DuPont Tyler and Two Rivers Middle Schools, which are schools in the McGavock Cluster.

- Program Notes provided by S. Miller

PARTICIPANTS

FLUTE

Rachel Crase - *Donelson MS*
Alex Garcia - *Donelson MS*
Olamide Odunusi - *DuPont Hadley MS*
Maleya Lopez - *DuPont Hadley MS*
Guillermo Bohorquez Santiago - *DuPont Tyler MS*

BASSOON

Joshua Stockton - *DuPont Hadley MS*

CLARINET

Autumn Capps-Jackman - *DuPont Hadley MS*
Josiah Jackson - *Donelson MS*
Juno Luna Hernandez - *DuPont Tyler MS*
Disha Patel - *DuPont Tyler MS*
Isaac Phaneuf - *Donelson MS*
Raven Robertson - *DuPont Hadley MS*
Jody Samano Garcia - *DuPont Tyler MS*

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Josiah Ariemba - *DuPont Hadley MS*
Serenity Dockery - *Two Rivers MS*
Maritza Salas-Bello - *DuPont Tyler MS*
Mikenzye Ussery - *DuPont Tyler MS*

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Lucy Hazelton - *Donelson MS*

TRUMPET

Paige Franklin - *Two Rivers MS*
Jacie Krueck - *Two Rivers MS*
Tyler Livingston - *Two Rivers MS*
Skyla Lowe - *Donelson MS*
Julian Morones - *Donelson MS*
Autume Nickins - *Donelson MS*
Colton Smith - *Two Rivers MS*
Zoe Stevenson - *DuPont Tyler MS*
Caleb Waggoner - *Donelson MS*

HORN

Elijah Ricci - *DuPont Hadley MS*

TROMBONE

Chris Ashworth-Hagan - *Two Rivers MS*
Miles Pratt - *DuPont Hadley MS*

EUPHONIUM

Treniti Crew - *Two Rivers MS*
Syler Phenvongsa - *DuPont Tyler MS*
Sebastian Spalding - *Donelson MS*

TUBA

Caiden Keith - *DuPont Tyler MS*
Gabe Noriega - *Donelson MS*
Jo'Vonte Vaughn - *Two Rivers MS*

PERCUSSION

Ryleigh Barnes - *Donelson MS*
Zach Bullock - *Donelson MS*
Danica Chapman - *DuPont Hadley MS*
Jack Emry - *DuPont Hadley MS*
Savannah Fielden - *DuPont Hadley MS*
Sharon Gomez-Estrada - *Two Rivers MS*
Lacy Jordan - *Donelson MS*
Abigail Lee - *DuPont Tyler MS*
Angel Martinez Garcia - *DuPont Hadley MS*
Lenora Olander - *DuPont Tyler MS*
Bryson Parks - *Donelson MS*
Eli Pelton - *Donelson MS*
Elienai Rojas Camaja - *DuPont Hadley MS*
Talia Willoughby - *DuPont Hadley MS*

DONELSON MIDDLE SCHOOL



LAURA SHEPHERD



Laura Shepherd, originally from North Carolina, has dedicated over two decades to shaping young musical minds as a Middle School Band instructor. Now in her eighth year at Donelson Middle School, Laura's leadership has propelled her bands to consecutive Superior Ratings at esteemed events such as the NC Music Performance Assessment and Tennessee Music Educators Concert Performance Assessment. Additionally, Laura is named a 2024 CMA Music Teacher of Excellence.

Laura holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Appalachian State University, laying the groundwork for her lifelong commitment to music education. Beyond her teaching duties, she generously volunteers for Music City Drum Corps and enjoys traveling in her spare time.

Residing in Ridgetop, Tennessee, Laura finds solace in her cozy log cabin alongside her husband Barry, faithful dog Dolly, and mischievous cat Peggy. With two children also pursuing careers in the MNPS education system, Laura's passion and commitment to education continues to thrive.

Laura finds immense joy in her role, relishing the opportunity to guide students in discovering their musical talents. In her classroom, Laura strives to inspire others with her melody of dedication and enthusiasm.

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Principal

Jennifer Rheinecker

jennifer.rheinecker@mnps.org

Assistant Principal

Matt Patterson

matthew.patterson@mnps.org

Dean of Students

Mychal Austin

mychal.austin@mnps.org

Interim Assistant Principal

Angela Deel

angela.deel@mnps.org

DUPONT HADLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL



KACEE SANDERS



Kacee Sanders, a Tennessee native, holds a Masters of Music in Instrumental Conducting and a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Austin Peay State University. She's recognized for her impact on middle and high school ensembles throughout West and Middle Tennessee. Sanders is completing her eighth year as a public school educator and her second year at DuPont Hadley Middle School.

Her classroom emphasizes individual responsibility, nurturing independent musicians, future leaders, and responsible citizens. Sanders is a CMA Music Teacher of Excellence and a Yamaha Music Educators "40 Under 40" recipient. She also serves as the executive director of the nonprofit Southeastern Women in Music Symposium.

When she is not in the classroom, Sanders indulges in her love of gardening by taking care of her collection of houseplants and patio garden. Additionally, she is an avid video game enthusiast and enjoys spending quality time playing Nintendo Switch games with her seven-year-old son.

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Principal

Dr. Kevin Armstrong

kevin.armstrong@mnps.org

Assistant Principal

Gwendolyn Jaskoski

gwendolyn.jaskoski@mnps.org

Assistant Principal

Tiffany McKie

tiffany.mckie@mnps.org

DUPONT TYLER MIDDLE SCHOOL



SCOTT MILLER



Scott Miller (b. December 27, 1968) is an American composer and educator. A native of Dallas, Tx, Mr. Miller earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Middle Tennessee State University and a Masters of Education in Technology and Learning from Western Governors University. Mr. Miller has been an active arranger and composer for over 30 years. He has had the honor to have works and commissions performed at the Tennessee Music Education Association's All-State Conference (2008 and 2014), Music For All's Southeastern Regional Music Festival (2019) and by the California and Kansas All-State Bands (2024). His works are published through Miller Musicworks. As a music educator, Mr. Miller's ensembles have consistently earned superior ratings at district assessments and have performed at the Tennessee Music Education Association's All-State Conference. He is currently the Director of Bands at DuPont Tyler Middle School in Nashville, TN. He is also grateful for his wife Caryn and sons, Chase, Cameron and Colin, all of whom are much better musicians than he. Mr. Miller is a member of the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, National Association for Music Education and is a member of Phi Beta Mu, International Bandmasters' Fraternity.

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Principal

Frederick Hewitt

frederick.hewitt@mnps.org

Assistant Principal

Dawn Roberts

dawn.roberts@mnps.org

Assistant Principal

Angela Post

angela.post@mnps.org

Dean of Students

Errica Jordan

errica.jordan@mnps.org

TWO RIVERS MIDDLE SCHOOL



AMY SALEEB



Amy Saleeb is a passionate music educator, currently serving as the band director at Two Rivers Middle School. With a bachelor's degree in music education from Middle Tennessee State University, Saleeb brings both expertise and enthusiasm to her role. Saleeb has seamlessly integrated into the school community, fostering a dynamic and inclusive environment for musical exploration.

Before her tenure at Two Rivers, Amy honed her teaching skills in general music classes, where she fostered a love for music in students of all ages. Her proficiency on the trumpet, her primary instrument, enriches her instruction and serves as a source of inspiration for her students.

Beyond the classroom, Amy finds joy in nurturing her green thumb through gardening and cherishing moments with her beloved senior chihuahua. With a harmonious blend of musical talent, teaching prowess, and a nurturing spirit, Amy Saleeb continues to make a positive impact on the lives of her students and the musical community at Two Rivers Middle School.

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Principal

Rhonda Bledsoe

rhonda.bledsoe@mnps.org

Assistant Principal

Kristin Moore

kristin.moore@mnps.org



TMEA

Tennessee Music Education Association

JENNIFER RHEINECKER, EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL OF DONELSON MS



Congratulations

OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR AWARD - 2024 RECIPIENT -

Given in recognition of significant leadership by one or more school administrators in support of music education.



EDUCATING STUDENTS THROUGH MUSIC

Music Makes Us® is a unique partnership between Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), the Mayor's Office and the Nashville community. Together, these organizations work to provide meaningful support for Nashville's public school music programs.

You can be a partner in making Nashville Music Education City. Music Makes Us® welcomes all organizations or individuals to serve as advocates, investors and volunteers to support access to quality music education programs. Your partnership will provide our music teachers with the resources necessary to transform the lives of students and help them find success in all areas of their lives. There is an ongoing need for instruments, instructional assistance, teaching artists, supplies and equipment for our students as well as professional development and support for our music teachers. Learn more about Music Makes Us® and how you can support our efforts by contacting us at info@musicmakesus.org. Visit our web site at <https://musicmakesus.mnps.org>, find us on Twitter (@MMUNashville), Instagram (@MusicMakesUsNashville), and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/musicmakesusmnps>.

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Usted puede tomar parte en hacer de Nashville la Ciudad de Educación Musical. Music Makes Us® les da la bienvenida a todas las organizaciones e individuos que ofrezcan sus servicios como asesores, inversores y voluntarios para facilitar el acceso a programas de educación musical de calidad. Su colaboración proporcionará a nuestros maestros de música los recursos necesarios para transformar la vida de los estudiantes y ayudarlos a encontrar el éxito en todas las áreas de su vida. Hay una continua necesidad de instrumentos, ayuda docente, artistas que enseñen, útiles y equipo para nuestros estudiantes, así como capacitación profesional y respaldo para nuestros maestros de música. Adquiera más información acerca de Music Makes Us® y cómo puede respaldar nuestro empeño al escribirnos en info@musicmakesus.org. Visite nuestro sitio web en <https://musicmakesus.mnps.org/>, o encuéntrenos en Twitter (@MMUNashville), Instagram (@MusicMakesUsNashville) y Facebook en <https://www.facebook.com/musicmakesusmnps/>.





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